



**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

April 2001

Call us at (403) 275-4400

Producer Profile:

**Cec Jardine
ACC Finance
Chairman**



Cec Jardine and family operate a cow/calf commercial herd near **Valleyview**. He has been on the ACC for a total of eight years, serving on various committees. Cec has worked to help maintain agriculture as a viable way to earn a living. He would like to help keep the ACC as the strong voice for Alberta cattle producers.

**Cattle Market
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(403) 274-4340
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www.cattle.ca/acc

Alberta Beef Cattle Now Eligible for NISA

As a result of an Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) request, beef cattle producers in Alberta are now able to participate in NISA. The ACC voted in favour of making the NISA program available at the December annual general meeting.

Participation begins with the 2000 tax year. "This is the tax season and if producers wish to take part in this voluntary program, I suggest they let their accountants know," says Greg Conn, ACC chairman.

NISA is a core program in providing long term income stability for farmers and farm families. The account consists of two funds. Fund One holds all producers deposits. Fund Two holds government matching contributions and

all earned interest.

Funds in the account can be accessed under two withdrawal triggers. The Stabilization Trigger allows producers to withdraw from their account if the farm's gross margin falls below the average gross margin for the past five years. The minimum Income Trigger allows producers to withdraw funds when income from all sources fall below \$20,000 for individuals or \$35,000 for a family.

Although the 2000 NISA forms and guides will not reflect the eligibility of Alberta cattle, producers can receive benefits by simply entering the correct commodity codes and related sales and expense information on their 2000 NISA application.

Cattle Industry Icon Passes Away

Southern Alberta rancher Stan Wilson, passed away at his home west of Nanton, Alberta, March 10, 2001. Stan was chair of the ACC from 1980 to 1981. He later became president of Canadian Cattlemen's Association, a position he held from 1986 to 1988.

Livestock Welfare Review

The ACC appeared before the Alberta provincial committee reviewing livestock welfare protection services. The ACC stressed the need for continued enforcement of the Animal Protection Act, recognizing that the standards used must be consistent throughout the province.

ACC Wins Environmental Award

The ACC won a national Countryside Canada award from Wildlife Habitat Canada. The award recognizes the ACC's leadership in the Cows and Fish Program, a riparian and stream habitat protection program that has involved over 10,000 people in the province since its inception in 1992.

"Ours is a unique relationship. We really think the leadership that the ACC has shown towards addressing some of the impacts caused by livestock grazing has been tremendous," said Kerry Brewin, Alberta manager, Trout Unlimited Canada.

Countryside Canada recognizes that farmers and ranchers care about their land, and that given the choice, they will do what is right for wildlife and the habitat. The ACC was recognized for its involvement in working with farmers and ranchers to assist in improving their overall environmental stewardship.

Brewin pointed out that conservation and environmental groups are often at odds with the industrial sector. "With the ACC there were things we agreed on and worked together to address some of the issues."

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